

Q & A About TREASURE Forest

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QUESTION: My family and I have owned a certified TREASURE Forest for many years. However, over the years our primary and secondary objectives have changed. How can we change our primary and secondary objectives on our TREASURE Forest management plan and still have them acceptable with the state TREASURE Forest committee? What is involved?

ANSWER: The primary and secondary objectives can be changed at any time. The landowner must still select one of the five objectives: Timber, Wildlife, Recreation, Environmental Education and Aesthetics. The easiest way to make this change is during the reinspection process. A TREASURE Forest is reinspected every five years. This would give both the inspecting forester and the wildlife biologist an opportunity to discuss the changes with the landowner and possibly make some recommendations.

QUESTION: How much of my management plan has to be accomplished before I can be nominated and approved as a certified TREASURE Forest by the state committee?

ANSWER: To qualify for TREASURE Forest certification, a landowner must have one primary objective and at least one secondary objective. With the landowner's objectives known, the natural resource professional can refer to the appropriate minimum standards and basic guidelines. Though a landowner may do much more than the criteria listed, certification will be determined upon these minimum standards. In addition, a special category called "non-objective accomplishments" is listed. Regardless of a landowner's objectives, these criteria must be met for certification. For a detailed copy of these guidelines, request the brochure entitled "TREASURE Forest: Program Information and Basic Guidelines" from your local Alabama Forestry Commission office.

QUESTION: How long does it normally take to go through the TREASURE Forest certification process—from

the time you inform your county Alabama Forestry Commission personnel that you want to have your land in the TREASURE Forest program until you are actually certified?

ANSWER: The length of time to become a certified TREASURE Forest can vary depending on the landowner and the amount of time it takes to set in place the accomplishments for his property. The certification process has several steps that must be followed. These steps can take from three to six months to complete. The TREASURE Forest Subcommittee meets once a quarter to review the TREASURE Forest nominations that have been submitted from the four regions of Alabama.

QUESTION: How long does it normally take to get a management plan completed?

ANSWER: The workload from county to county can vary, and many times county personnel will be working on one or more management plans at the same time. A landowner requesting a plan may have to be put on a waiting list for assistance. Depending on the size of the property and the landowner's diversity and objectives, a plan can be worked out in as little time as a week or two, or as long as a couple of months, once the process for writing the management plan has begun.

QUESTION: If I am a certified TREASURE Forest landowner, am I automatically a member of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA)?

ANSWER: No. The ATFA is a non-profit organization that you may voluntarily join whether you are a certified TREASURE Forest landowner or not. All new TREASURE Forest landowners will receive an invitation to join the organization. The TREASURE Forest Subcommittee sends a list of all new TREASURE Forest landowners to the ATFA upon certification vote. The ATFA, in turn, sends a letter of congratulations to the newly certified TREASURE Forest landowners with an invitation for them to join the ATFA. 🏠

6 Steps to Success

Anyone owning 10 or more acres of forestland can be considered for the certified TREASURE Forest award. To be eligible, a landowner must do the following with respect to all their forestland in Alabama:

1. Identify one primary and at least one secondary management objective for the property based on the following list of choices: Timber Production; Wildlife; Recreation; Aesthetics; Environmental Education.

2. Possess or acquire a written multiple-use management plan for the property. Your local Alabama Forestry Commission office can help you identify options for obtaining a written management plan if one does not exist.

3. Actively practice multiple-use management on the property. Your local office of the Alabama Forestry Commission can supply you with information on the level of management activity necessary.

Once these items are in place, the following must occur to earn the award:

4. The property must be nominated by someone associated with one of the member agencies or groups of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee. You may contact them and suggest a nomination if you feel your property or that of someone you know qualifies for the award.

5. The property must be inspected by a registered forester and wildlife biologist. Your local Alabama Forestry Commission office will arrange the inspection.

6. The nomination and inspection report must be submitted to the TREASURE Forest Subcommittee of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee for review and approval.

7. If you would like to be considered for the certified TREASURE Forest award, or know of someone else who may qualify, contact your local office of the Alabama Forestry Commission or other member agency/group of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee. These organizations are listed on page 2 of this magazine. They will be happy to assist you with the certification process.